



Something further laid open

Of the Cruel

PERSECUTION

Of the People, called,

QUAKERS,

BY THE

MAGISTRATES

AND

PEOPLE

OF

EVESHAM



Having suffered much by the rude People, as dirting, stonings, flocking, spitting, and pissing upon, and having been so often assaulted with great companies of rude people in our meetings, and having suffered much abuse and violence, not only in our meetings, but also in the prison, upon us who were prisoners, who were at sometimes twenty in number, concerning which I shall mention little, but direct the Reader to two printed papers, one with this Title, (*A Representation of the Government of Evesham, &c.*) But especially to another, titled (*The Cruelty of the Magistrates of Evesham,*) wherein is laid open the manner of their proceedings against us, with the most unjust usage of those that have vouchsafed there against

us, at the general Sessions held for that place; where many of us were fined, and eleven prisoned, and yet not any law could be read unto us that we had broken. But to lay open some more of the most inhumane dealings of him called Mayor, with the rest of the persecuting Magistrates against us.

Friends, having suffered much by the rude multitude, and enduring all patiently, at last they grew ashamed and confounded, and then they grew more quiet, and friends met peaceably twice or thrice a week, so that the ignorant began to be convinced, and the gain-sayers mouths stopped, and much people received the truth in love, whereby the meetings were increased, and the gain-sayers mouths stopped, and the work of the Lord began to prosper. Thus we continued a certain space, day by day, in peace; and then there arose up a new Mayor, who knew not the righteous seed, as there arose up a new King in Egypt, *Exod. 1.* and he saw the people of God encrease, and was vexed at it, as the world was alwayes vexed at the encrease of the *Righteous Seed*. So that Mayor (*Edward Young*) said, *he would break our Meetings, or else his bones should lye in the dirt; the which he did.* Upon the 14. day of the 8. month, being the first day of the week, friends met in a house: and as two friends of the Town were going to the Meeting, the Mayor laid hands on them, and put them in prison. And in the latter part of the day, friends met in the street, where they were peaceably without any disturbance, untill the Mayor came with Officers, and said, *it was an unlawfull assembly;* and said, *if there were above eight persons met together, it was an unlawfull assembly,* and presently laid hands on Friends, and pulled, and thrust, and kickt many, and put many into prison, and into the stocks, and put me and two more into the Dungeon; and when he saw that Friends were not afraid, and that his cruelty could not move them; he said, *he wanted another prison for the women,* (for he had imprisoned men in four severall places.) That time when this was done, he commanded his Sergeant to make a noise, and proclaim and command, in the Name of the Protector, *that everyone should depart thence upon pain of imprisonment* (when he wanted more prisons to put us in.) Thus he broke our Meetings, who harmed not any, nor resisted his violence. Then he said, *if we would meet in houses or in the fields, he would not molest us.* Yet on the next first day, he saw one of the Town going along to the Meeting that we had then appointed in a house, and him he put in prison; and so I being that day put in the Dungeon; as once before I was put in for praying, then he endeavoured to keep all people from me, and for several dayes and nights we were denyed having candles in this dark Dungeon: At last he sent us each man a penyworth of bread, and a half penyworth of beere, the which the Goaler said was the Towns allowance, but we still denyed it, & sent him word, *That if we should not have food for our money, or from our friends, then we would be without it.* So at last when we could have bread from our friends, and water when we could have it, then we did eat and drink and praise the Lord.

Thus

Thus he much endeavoured to bring us to slavery to his corrupt will, which was according to the words of *Robert Atkins*, that late Judge at the Sessions, who then said to me thus, *You have been kept very high, but I shall take a course ere I go hence, that you shall be kept shorter.* And the Mayor, *Edward Young*, caused a Trap-Door to be made to the Dungeon, and locked down, and all our bedding and bed-cloaths that Friends had sent us, he caused to be taken away from us, and will not let our Friends have them again. *Ioshua Frensom*, a friend and prisoner, having much pain with his teeth, did something earnestly desire, that whilst he was a prisoner, he might have the use of a pillow that was taken away, which was his own, but it was denyed. On the second day after we were put in the Dungeon, a Friend brought us some Straw to ly upon, but the Goaler would not suffer it to be brought into us, because they would not give him money for to open the door. Once I sent to the Mayor to have liberty for some man or friend to fetch out our Dung from us, and he denyed it, and sent for a Constable to put that Friend in the Stocks that came to ask it. And while I was in the other prison, before I was put in the Dungeon, sometimes our books and writings were taken from us, and sometimes our stools that we had to sit or write upon, and our candles, besides much abuse which our friends received from the Goaler, who were prisoners at his house, which I shall forbear to mention, only thus he said unto them, if they would not pay 4. d. a night for each mans lodging, and 8. d. a Meal for each mans meat, then they should go all to the main Goal, which they refusing to satisfie his will in, neither did they eat of his dyet, being all Townsmen; but sometime he would not suffer their wives nor other friends, to come to them to bring their dyet, nor yet to come in to them. Then a man got leave of him that dwelt next house to the Goaler, and so went through his house and brought food to the prisoners, which when the Goaler saw, he threatned the man which had suffered them to go through his house, and took the beer from them that brought it to the prisoners, intending by such actions to force them to his will, which they would not be subject to; therefore he brought them all to the Main-Goal, and then he said unto us, *that if he might have his will, he would hang us all on the morrow; and he had said before, he might do what he would unto us, for we should have no benefit of the Law, neither durst any Lawyer plead for us.* Then were them eight kept in that Goal, and we three in the Dungeon under them, where I and some others have been, kept in this Dungeon and Prison, with our own dung in the same Room, from time to time for this fourteen weeks.

And as for the Prison or Hole where we are kept, it is not 12. foot square and one Goal-hole belonging to, four inches wide, where we take in our food, and straw to lye upon, and we are forced to burn candle every day when we have it, by reason the Prison is so dark and so close, and so many in so little room, and so little air, with the stinck of our own dung, all which might have occasioned the death of some of us ere this time; and one they kept with me in the dungeon untill he was sick, and after turn-

ed him out in the night; and some others have not been well, by reason of the exceeding closeness of the prison, whereby sometimes the stink of the Prison hath been so strong in the streets, that people could not endure to stand by it. Sometimes when the dayes were hot, the breath of some prisoners was almost stopped, and lay for severall dayes like men asleep: and when the dayes are at the coldest, we have not room nor place either to make fire, or to walk to keep our bodies warm; yet there is a large prison over our heads, where they do sometime prison many of our Friends; but that large prison they wil not let us be in, neither could we, nor friends for us, prevail to have liberty to walk in that prison sometimes by day, and to come down into the other prison by night.

Therefore let all people take notice, whose hearts is tender towards the Lord, how we are not only deprived of outward liberty, without the breach of any Law, but are also kept in a most barbarous condition, worse then thieves and murderers, as the Goaler hath said, *that if we had been in for theft or murder, he could have let us have more liberty then now he durst, because of the Mayor.*

One day two Countrey-men were passing by the prison with their Teams, which men came and inquired what we were in prison for, and the Goaler being by, inticed them in to us, and then he locked the door again, and went his way; so the men were constrained by reason of their Teams, to send severall messengers with intreating words to the Goaler, to come again; and then they were forced to agree with him for to let them forth for money, the which they presently paid. Another time one of the Town came to see us, when the Goaler was there and the doors open, and the Goaler locked the door, and kept him in that day from his labor, and the night: & his wife, nor her friends could not prevail with the Mayor nor the Goaler, to let him out without money.

James VVall, who had been a soldier many years, and served an Apprentiship in the Town, and a Free-Man thereof, and have born several Offices, being a Shop-keeper, having for seven years kept a standing in the Market place, untill since he was a prisoner for witnessing the Truth, yet the Mayor, *Edward Young*, forbad his Wife to stand in the Market place, which for so many years he had done, neither would he let her stand that time where he was wont to do, nor in any part of the Market place: Then she went to him about it, and once he said she should have a standing for to open in the Market; but after he began to speak subtilly to her, saying, I hear that your husband doth abuse you. She answered, *My Husband did never abuse me; but as for that judgement which he now holdeth, once I could not own it; but now seeing it is so much persecuted, makes me own it, because the way of God was alwayes persecuted.* And when the Mayor heard that, and saw he could have no occasion against her husband by her words, then he said, *she should not have a standing place for five pounds.* Also two of *James VValls* Chap-men came to him, with whom he had dealed much, and their accounts was large, and some money he owed them; who went to the Mayor, and proffered him what Bayle he would desire

desire for him, to come forth one day to perfect his accounts; but they could not prevail with him; but the Mayor said to them, *that if they would have a warrant to seize on his goods, they should; but the men said, they had no reason so to do; for the Mayor he seeks to ruinate not only him, but all the other also.* Upon that day we came before the late Mayor, George Kemp, I said, *I own Magistrates that are for the punishing of evil doers, and the praise of them that do well.* He answered, *You will find none such in England: (And I am sure I find none such in Evesham.)*

Upon the 17. day of the 9. month, Margret Newby, and Elizabeth Courtten, came to this Town, in obedience to the Lord, who had a Meeting on the morrow (being the first day) at Edward Pirrways house; and after the Meeting was ended, about the fourth hour, in the latter part of the day, they came to the prison to visit us that were in it; and as they were returning, the Mayor laid violent hands on them himself, and sent for Officers, and caused them to be put in a pair of Stocks in a prison over us, which Stocks are worse then ordinary, made for hands and feet to be put in; and when the Constable had put them in those Stocks, the Mayor went up to the prison to see if they were put in bad enough; and the Constable had put them in one near to another, and the Mayor caused the Stocks to be opened, and removed them one as far from another, as might be one at the one end of the Stocks, and the other at the other; and the holes that are for the hands, their hands were too little; and he made them put in their legs near a yard one from another; and the women desired a block for to sit on, it being a great distance from the place where they were to sit, and the places in which their legs were put; and the Mayor bid the Constable fetch a block, and thrust it between their legs, and said they should not have them between their legs which they would have; and other uncivill words he used, and locked the door, and went his way, and would not suffer any to go to them to carry any cloaths, or anything for them to sit on, in a most barbarous and cruel manner, for the space of fifteen hours; and after they had been in all that time, he presently (after he had caused them to be taken out) sent them out of the town a back way, without suffering them to go to any place to refresh themselves it being a freezing night. And the same first day at evening, he caused a friend that came to the prison-hole, who came to the Town the day before, him he caused to be set in the Common-Stocks, not shewing him any reason why they did it; and after he had been in the Stocks all that freezing night in the street, then the Mayor sent him out of the town by the Goaler, and when the Goaler had left him, he returned to the Town again along the road way, it being the Market-day, and came to the prison to us, and then went to the Mayor to know what offence he had to charge him with, that he thus punished him; but the Mayor having nothing to accuse him of, was wrath, and sent him to the Stocks again, where both his feet were put in.

Then they sent for Robert Vens, who did go along with that friend out of the Town that had been in the Stocks all night, and when

Robert

Robert Vens came before them called Justices, *Samuel Gardiner*, and *Robert Martin*, the one of them said, What shall we do with this fellow? The other answered, Put him in the Goal and hang him; but at last they sent him to the stocks, and he knows no reason why they did it, but for going with the other friend out of the town; and when he had been in the stocks five hours, then they sent for him to see what the Goaler had to charge him with for any words that he might speak when hee went with the other friend; so when they had punished him, they went to inquire what fault he had done.

Some of the Inhabitants of the town intended to send two men to the Protector, (when this persecution begun in *Evesham*, and the corruption of the Magistrates did so plainly appear) to let him know what corrupt men were in authority in this town, and they writ something to that effect to send by them; the which writing was subscribed about fifty hands to it; but I said unto them, that they might put themselves to much trouble, and yet not speak with the Protector; therefore if they would not otherwise be satisfied, they might put some four hands to it, and send it to print, and then I should endeavour to have it sent to the Protector, that he might be left without excuse, so they sent it to print with 20 hands to it, which was titled, *A Representation of the Government of Evesham, from many of the Inhabitants thereof, directed unto the Protector O. C.*

And at the Sessions many of them were fined, and some were both fined and imprisoned ever since in the Protector's name, for declaring to the Protector the corruption of those that are put in authority under the Protector, who act contrary to the Protector's Laws against those that have been faithful souldiers both for the Parliament and the Protector, and there is not any friend at any time, that can by any means since the Sessions, procure by any means, or buy for money, a copy of our indictments.

And let all people take notice, That all that is printed in the first, second, and this third book, is all but a short declaration to what might be printed of the persecution of Priests, Magistrates, and People of this Town of *Evesham*, against the Saint

From the Dungeon in Evesham by him that is known to the world by the name of Humphrey Smith.

YOU that be Magistrates, which do cast Christ into prison, and will not visit him when you have done, nor suffer his friends & brethren to visit him in prison, and there you keep him in prison til he hunger and thirst, & you prison him as a vagabond, who hath no place to lay his head, sick and in prison, and you visit him not; but the corner-stone is set up, and the rock of ages manifest, and him who bears the Government upon his shoulders, whose Kingdome is without end, & Dominion which hath no end, which is an everlasting Dominion, which Dominion is over all

all Dominions, whose Scepter is Righteousness, whose Law Royall stands over all, answereth that of God in all, and respects no mans person, but is holy, just and righteous, perfect and good, whose Priesthood is royal everlasting, that never changeth, who lighteth every man that cometh into the world, that men might believe and see the way out of the World, Christ, the Light, the Way, the Truth, who is the Covenant of Light, of Peace, and of Life: Was not Christ crucified in Sodom and Gomorah spiritually? and are not they Sodomites that imprison him? and are not the Sodomites them that live in fulness of bread, and idleness, and the filthy conversation, which the Righteous Soul grieves and vexeth, which Christ is Shepherd of, and the Bishop, who is a Witness in all consciences, which witnesseth against the lusts which war against the Soul: Was not all the profession of Christ before he was manifested in the flesh; and when he was manifest in the flesh, hypocrisy among them that profess him in words, and did not believe in him who was the Light, but cast him into prison, and he was sick, and they visited him not, and was hungry, and they fed him not, and he was naked, and they clothed him not; such as neither knew his voice, nor the Prophets that shew'd the coming of him? And is not all the profession of Christ now hypocrisy among them that profess him in words, and do not believe in him who is the Light, that lighteth every man that cometh into the world; but cast him into prisons, and holes, and dungeons, and he is sick, and you visit him not, and hungry, and you feed him not, and thirsty, and you give him no drink, and naked and you cloath him not, but into prison cast him as a vagabond, who hath no place to lay his head; The Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the son of man hath no place to lay his head; Christ, the same yesterday, to day, and for ever. Therefore awake ye Rulers, and fear the Lord God, and hear the voice of the Son of God, that you may live; for now is Christ come to reign, the same as ever was, whom into prison you do cast, and with your wills would not suffer him to reign; but Christ will reign, who is not born by the will of man, who is King and Ruler, and now reigns in his Kingdom and Dominion, which is without end, and in his power and in his fulness, who filleth all things, and thousands of his fulness have receiv'd, and of his power, (as many as have received him) to become the Sons of God.

THE END.

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